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TO: OLIS Library Programs:

The Office of Library and Information Services has become the great equalizer among Rhode Island libraries. Every library, no matter how small is able to provide a higher level of service to its patrons due to the programming and support given by OLIS. Our own library's Reference services have improved due to the training offered in the use of GALE databases to the support staff and a recent Reference Round Table program regarding access to state and government websites. Similarly, the Professional Collection at OLIS provides the best resources concerning every facet of library services. So many times, when considering a new service or collection, we will ILL items from OLIS that prove invaluable in our decision-making.


The Children's and Young Adult Services serve to keep librarians current with new events and concepts in their field. In a small library such as Harmony, the professional staff wears many different hats covering several areas at once. This makes it impossible to give each area the amount of time it deserves, however, with the tireless efforts of the Children's and Young Adult Coordinators at OLIS we never feel as though we are doing this on our own. The information from the SIGS is nearly the equivalent to having a staff of 60 or better at your disposal.

The statewide Summer Reading Program has consistently increased the number of young readers and their families at our library. Each year, the percentage of children who complete the reading requirements rises. None of this would be possible without the monetary and professional support from OLIS. Every library has the opportunity to have professional storytellers perform during the program. The average cost of these storytellers is approximately \$300.00. Without, the funds from OLIS, only the children in the bigger cities and towns would have access to these wonderful performers. Children also have to opportunity to visit area attractions through incentive awards funded by OLIS.

Finally, the Harmony Library is funded by the following sources: 72% provided by the town of Glocester, 16% by the state's Grant-In-Aid and 12% by grass roots efforts (fundraising, memorial funds, fines and copies and charitable donations). The 16% provided by the state is an important contribution to the library. We have been able to increase our professional staff in compliance with state standards with the inclusion of these funds.

The cohesive efforts provided by OLIS are valuable beyond measure. Funding for the CLAN Consortium gives libraries the power to offer a wide range of materials and services. Again, OLIS is the great equalizer, allowing each adult and child in this state the same opportunities for access to quality materials and services.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Joan Hackett, Director  
Harmony Library